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01AB055/ALBRP214USA

REMARKS

Claims 1- 26 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A listing of the claims is at pages 2-7. Claims 5 and 18 have been amended herein to correct minor informalities. Applicants' representative notes with appreciation the indication that claims 4-6 and 16-18 would be allowable if recast in independent form to include all limitations of respective base claims and any intervening claims. To this end, claims 4, 16 and 17 have been cancelled and independent claims 1, 13 and 26 have been amended to incorporate their features. In addition, independent claim 25 has been amended to recite allowable aspects of claim 18. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested as they do not necessitate a new search or any undue effort by the Examiner because they do not present new claimed subject matter. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1 - 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that a person using a pencil and paper can perform the claimed invention. In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 13, 25 and 26, this rejection is believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 7-9, 13, 19-21 and 25-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 7-9, 13, 19-21 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Park *et al.* (US 6,173,208). In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 13, 25 and 26 which incorporate the allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner, this rejection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 2-3, 10-12, 14-15 and 22-24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-3, 10-12, 14-15 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Park *et al.* in view of Gretta *et al.* (US 5,971,581). In view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into independent claims 1 and 13 (from which the subject claims depend from), this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

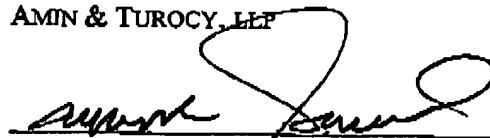
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [ALBRP214USA].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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